

Twenty Four

# QUERIES

Touching the  
Parliament & Army,

AND

The Interest of the *Royal-Party*,  
and Others of this Nation:

Tending to *Settlement*, on the Basis  
of *Justice* and *Honour*;

---

*By several Friends to Publick Good.*

---

Printed in the Year, 1659.





1911

1911

1911

1911

1911

1911

1911





Twenty Four  
**Q U E R I E S**  
 TOUCHING THE  
**Parliament & Army,**  
 AND  
 Other Interests of this *Nation.*

I.  
**VV** Hether this *Parliament* that hath been  
 taxed for so much *Self-seeking partiality,*  
*Covetousness,* and *Injustice,* ought not  
 to act with so much *Self-denying Impar-*  
*tiality and Justice,* as may give ample testimony to the *world,*  
 that they were illegally charged with those *Crimes,* & that  
 the causes of those former miscarriages, were created by the  
 enemies of publick settlement by way of a *Free-State,* that  
 secretly lurked amongst them, and designed those Inconve-  
 niences, to hinder publick good, and their Counsels use-  
 less?

II.  
 Whether it doth not concern them, in point of Honour  
 A 2 and



(4)

and Conscience, to go on with the work of settling these *Nations*, without eying the Army in any thing, but what doth conduce to publick good?

III.

Whether or no it would not tend very much to the dishonour of the *Parliament*, if they should miscarry in being swayed or over-ruled by any particular person or Interest whatsoever?

IV.

Whether or no that the *Parliament* can forget their grand miscarriage of adding & continuing so great power as they did to *Oliver Cromwel*; by vertue of which he made himself Master of his Country? *An inhumane Usurper, and matchless Tyrant!*

V.

Whether or no it doth not behove them to prevent the like evils, by limiting, checking, and ballancing the power of the great Officers of the Army, that at no time they may be able to attempt the like?

VI.

Whether or no it doth not consist with conveniency and safety, that the *Parliament* do dispose of all *Commission* Offices in the Army, and not suffer the great Officers to exercise that Authority; by which means they make parties, by preferring their Kindred and Others to depend upon their Favor, who are fit Instruments to aid them from whom they receive these favours, in any dangerous undertaking, tending to Change of Government, or any other Usurpation?

VII.

Whether the *Commonwealths* Arms can be intrusted with more security, or in better hands, then in those who suffered, were imprisoned, or expelled the Army by *Oliver Cromwel*, for adhering to a *Commonwealths* Interest, or for abominating of his Cruelties or Oppression; whether or no such persons



(5)

sons ought not to be first restored to their former Offices, before any member of the Army be preferred ?

VII.

Whether or no the *Militia* of every individual County of this Nation, ought not to be settled in the hands of persons of approved worth and fidelity to a *Free State* ?

IX.

When the *Militia* is settled in safe hands, and the Army thorowly purged of the *Promoters, Assertors, Defenders, and Props* to the Government of a *Single Person*, and those persons before premised, viz. Friends to the Interest of a *Commonwealth, or Free State*, are placed in their rooms ; whether then that the next work be not to consult the Mode and Order how the *Commonwealth* shall be governed, that the people may know what to trust unto ; that thereby the mouths of the Enemies to the Government of a *Free State* may be stopped ; who often alleadge, that this *Parliament* intend to govern onely by their own Wills, and Arbitrary Power, without Rule or Law, onely as the necessity of Affairs shall dictate ?

X.

Whether or no that the continuance of the Government of one and the same Parliament, without Annual Constitution by New Election, be not much more dangerous then the Government of a *Single Person* ? And whether that a co-ordinate Senate be not Cousin-germain to another House ?

XI.

If so ; Then whether or no this *Parliament* ought not to declare when their power shall determine ; and also when the next *Representative* shall commence.

XII.

Whether or no that Exceptions, being duly observed and put in execution, against all persons that have engaged in the late war, or that have shewed, or do shew any dislike of the



the present Government, is not so good and sufficient Rule to prevent the peoples overthrowing the Interest of the publick, by their election of persons to represent them in *Parliament*, that are Enemies to this Government?

## XIII.

Whether or no there ought not to be a great Reward appointed to such a person or persons, as shall detect, discover, or bring to light, and apprehend and bring to Tryal any person or persons, as should go about directly or indirectly to attempt the Supremacy, or aid any by Counsel or Force, in any such illegal and pernicious Undertaking.

## XIV.

Whether or no it will not conduce much to settling, quieting, and preservation of the people of this *Commonwealth*, in regard it suiteth with the desire of the greatest part of the people, to establish a *National Ministry*, that shall be eminent for *Piety* and *Learning*.

## XV.

Whether or no, that the Lesser part of the People should have their Desires answered in opposition of what is propounded before in the 14th *Quære*? and whether they should not content themselves with having *Liberty of Conscience*, and alike *Respect* and *Protection* with people of other Opinions? it being not Reasonable, that one sort of people should have dominion over the other, because they are of such and such Opinions.

## XVI.

Whether or no, ought not the Parliament to passe an *Act of Oblivion*, that the Royal Party may not alwayes bear the Marks and Characters of *Common-Enemies*; which createth in them a *Desire of Change*, and ready to lay hold of any opportunity to Re-establish the Government of a *Single Person*; they knowing, that their Principles onely fit them to be Instruments for Owning and promoting of such a Government



vernment, and that therein they shall arrive to Esteem Credit and Authority.

## XVII.

Whether or no, That after 10 or 20 Years, the *Royalists* may not again be admitted to Elections, or to be Elected, provided they give sufficient Testimony of their liking and approving of the Government? it being probable, that in such a time the Nation may be so much in Love with the Intended Government, that it may be impossible to attempt the Change thereof: nay, when the *Royalists* are by so long Experience convinced of the Justice and Excellency of this Government Intended, they will be contented to submit to it, to promote it, and defend it: Their present dislike of it, arising from the Great Inconveniencies that they apprehend to be in such a Government; as also of their being kept as Slaves under it.

## XVIII.

Whether or no, that after the Government and the *Militia* be settled, and those other things tending to the satisfying of all Parties and Interests be provided for, That the Next Work to be undertaken, be not the Care of Trade, so much miserably decayed for this 30 or 40 years last past? in which time those who have had to do with Government, have onely minded self-preservation; their Counsels have tended to nothing else, nor their Authority been made use of to no other End: by which means, the good of the Publick hath been wholly neglected.

## XIX.

Whether or no, that the Fishing of these three Dominions, be not to be taken care of, in regard it would be Equal to the Mines of Gold in the *West-Indies*; there being Fished out of our Seas by Computation, so much Fish, as in one year hath amounted to 3. Millions of money; in which Imployment, the *Hollanders* do imploy above 2000 Sayle, small and great: which not onely maketh them Rich, and strong



strong at Sea, but also doth employ 200000 people, Sailors to man such a Fleet; Carpenters to build; Coopers for Casks; Spinners or Yarn-Weavers, Sayl-makers, Rope-makers, Smiths, besides the Innumerable number of people that furnish them with other Wares, and that attend other occasions upon such a mighty Fleet.

## X X.

Whether that all the Ancient Laws and Statutes touching Trade, be not fit to be searcht, and revived, and put in Execution? and all good provision made for the well and true working and making of all Commodities?

## X X I.

Whether that it be not a great detriment to the Nation, to suffer any Staple Commodities to be Transported before it be wrought?

## X X I I.

Whether that the *Parliament* ought not to sit, to those great Ends before mentioned, quietly, undisturbed, in safety, free from being over-awed by the *Army*, or any other Party?

## X X I I I.

Whether it be fitting or becoming a *Member of the Army* sitting in *Parliament*, to enforce his Argument by such an Expression as this, *viz. The Army will not bear such Debates?*

## X X I V.

Whether that it be not the Duty of all Persons and Interests of this *Common-wealth*, to give way one unto another, for the general good of all, and Acquiesce in the Judgment of the *Parliament*, and submit to what *Government* they shall appoint; in regard it is not possible to have such a *Government* as shall suite with Every one's Mind?



